

The Chief End of Man

“The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.”

Is your conception of God one that involves *enjoying* God, or just obeying him?

Any life that is built around something other than God’s glory is a life that is out of alignment with what it is made to do.

The “Where” of Praise

“The call is to God’s worshippers on earth, meeting at his chosen place [the Old Testament temple in Jerusalem], but also to his heavenly host to mingle their praises with ours.” – Derek Kidner

The Point: Our praise extends from God’s temple, the church (Ephesians 2:21-22), up into the heavens, and joins with the angelic chorus to glorify God. Earth and heaven unite in praising God.

The “Why” of Praise

His mighty deeds → God’s saving actions
His excellent greatness → God’s character

The Point: God reveals who he is through his saving acts towards his people. This makes him worthy of praise!

The “How” and “When” of Praise

“The answer to the question ‘how?’ is: with everything you have!” – Derek Kidner

Great national and sacred occasions → The trumpet blast (Leviticus 25:9, Psalm 81:3)

Joyous celebrations, like a victory → Tambourine and dance, lyre and harp (Psalm 149:3)

Common instruments for the different moods of life → The pipe or flute (Gen. 4:21, 1 Kgs. 1:40)

Unity, worship, victory, and exultation → Crashing cymbals (1 Chronicles 15:16, Ezra 3:10)

The “Who” of Praise

Everything that has breath!

This is an invitation from God to the earth and everything in it, to fulfill its purpose – praise to God!

John 4:23-24 “But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Questions for Personal Study

1. Other than on Sunday mornings, how do you spend time praising God?
2. What does it mean, for you, to worship God in every different mood of life? Where are you at right now?
3. Does your life have a purpose bigger than yourself, or is it fundamentally about your own happiness?
4. God is inviting everything that has breath to praise him. What does it look like for *you* to praise him and invite *others* to do the same?